

When a fire occurs across a landscape, it burns at different intensities. It is not uncommon to see a wide range of effects from the fire. Some effects appear drastic, while other areas within the fire perimeter seem untouched or only slightly affected. Dangers can and do result in areas that have been burned during a wildfire. Risks and hazards present themselves in a number of ways that include: soft spots on the ground's surface where roots and stumps have burned underground, smoldering stumps, falling trees and branches, and flooding that can impact streams, roads and trails.

The Lincoln National Forest's dedicated employees, along with its valued partners have worked tirelessly to survey and assess areas that were affected by the Little Bear Fire. Efforts to improve conditions and mitigate potential hazards continue. **Public safety is the highest priority** and sometimes area or site-specific closures are necessary to ensure that people are not exposed to situations within potentially dangerous settings.

Several areas in the Lincoln National Forest remain closed, please refer to the [closure map](#) for the latest update.

The following photos depict some of the closed areas where work is underway.

The Little Bear Fire Closure

Why the area is closed and what is being done to open it?



Background Image: Using the Crest Trail as a successful fire line.

Lincoln National Forest Lands Near Bonito Lake

On the Lincoln National Forest, areas around Bonito Lake remain closed. Trees that were affected by the fire can become weak causing an entire tree or some of its branches to fall to the ground. This scenario could pose a very hazardous situation to anyone who may be in the area. Skilled, well-trained crews are working diligently to remove hazard trees and debris from campgrounds.

The road which accesses the lake is being used to assist in draining efforts. Once the lake is drained, dredging and removal of contaminated material can be safely accomplished.

The water is being removed from the lake, re-routed along the road through a series of pipes and released back into the natural spillway. This helps prevent any flooding potential and will facilitate the dredging operation.

Canyons leading into the main road do flood which can result in an accumulation of debris such as rocks, mud, and logs.



Above: Littleton Canyon with debris



Above & Below: Pipeline along FR107



Crest Trail

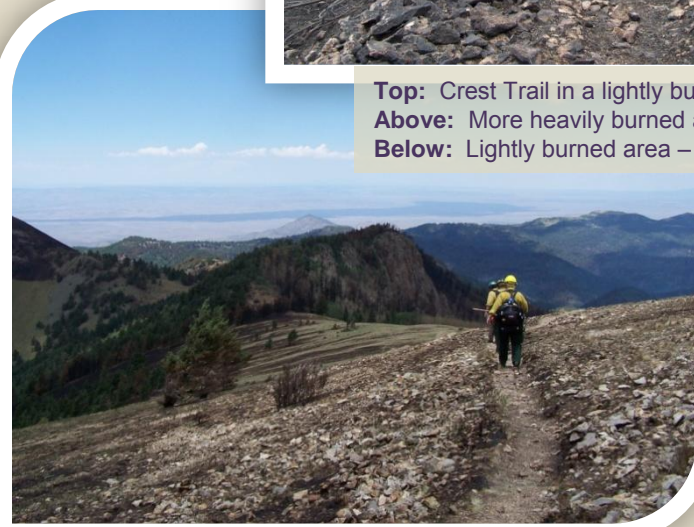
Parts of the Crest Trail are open while other portions of the trail remain closed ([see map](#)).

At first glance, portions of this 20 mile trail appear to be safe, however, a large number of burned trees continue to pose risks which can compromise safety.

Flooding is always a concern and can occur with any amount of rainfall, making some areas susceptible to flood damage. Dispersed or “road-side” camping is popular near creeks or canyon bottoms, but can be very dangerous under the current conditions.



Below: Crest Trail being surveyed by USFS crew.



Top: Crest Trail in a lightly burned area.

Above: More heavily burned area with hazard trees

Below: Lightly burned area – crew doing their survey.

North Fork Eagle Creek

Work continues to help minimize effects of flooding. In many cases, flooding and flood-related damage after a fire cannot be avoided. Placing gabions helps to divert flooding away from structures.

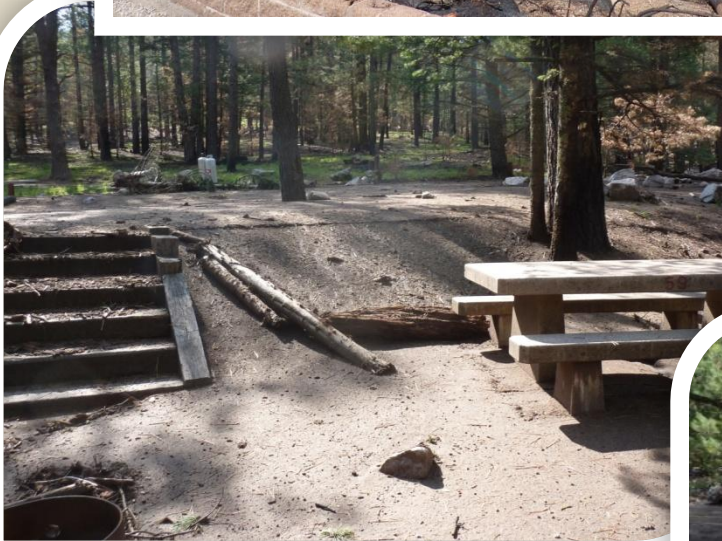
The treatments have been successful thus far, as seen in the photos shown here.



South Fork Campground

The upper canyon of the South Fork of the Rio Bonito, where South Fork Campground is located, was impacted by the fire. Clean up efforts are underway and plans to rebuild are being developed.

Hazard trees are being removed almost daily. Access roads require constant maintenance and debris removal so that emergency and cleanup crews can have access to continue their hard work.



Top: Campground with trees felled and stacked.

Above & Right: A campsite showing damage

Far Right: Road covered with a debris flow after rains